

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of March 24 - March 28, 2008**

1. Foreclosure Prevention in Montgomery County: Housing staff Sara Daines and Linda Walker attended a meeting called by Rick Nelson, Montgomery County Director of the Department of Housing and Community Affairs. The purpose of the meeting was to update housing and other non-profit organizations and government agencies dealing with services to the public, about the status of foreclosures in Montgomery County. Deputy Secretary Clarence J. Snuggs of Maryland's Department of Housing and Community Development and Mr. Nelson announced an agreement between the two agencies that will finance housing counseling in Montgomery County to those in need. Mr. Nelson stated that the Latino Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) will be contracted to provide these services to Montgomery County residents. In addition, it is believed that further educational and counseling opportunities will be forthcoming. Myriam Torrico, the County's Manager of Hispanic Affairs will be putting together a task force that will continue to work on providing and coordinating these needed services to County residents. Currently, the State of Maryland offers three options that may help those experiencing trouble with their mortgages: the Lifeline Refinance Program, Bridge to Hope Loan Program and Home Saver Refinance Program. For further information, contact Linda Walker at 301-891-7222. *(Housing and Community Development)*

2. Free Breakfast -Meet & Greet with Mayor: Sameer Ailawadi, franchisee and owner of the local Dunkin' Donuts/Baskin-Robbins, wishes to express his appreciation to his neighbors and the surrounding community by hosting a free breakfast event. The event will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 19 at the Dunkin' Donuts/Baskin-Robbins located at 6851 New Hampshire Avenue (on the corner of East-West Highway). Mayor Williams will greet residents from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For further information regarding this event, please contact Executive Assistant Peggye Washington at 301-891-7230 or call Dunkin' Donuts at 301-270-2445. *(Executive Assistant)*

3. Takoma Park Staff Recognition Program: On Thursday, April 3, the City will honor employees who reached service milestones with the City in calendar year 2007 and others receiving special recognitions. Awards will be presented by Mayor Williams and City Manager Barb Matthews. **All members of City Council are invited!** The event will get underway at 11:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers of the Community Center and is anticipated to last about one hour. A copy of the program will be provided to the Council. For more information regarding this event, please contact Human Resources Specialist Carmen Barrington at 301-891-7203. *(Executive Assistant)*

4. Takoma Park Poet Laureate Offers Free Poetry Workshop for High School Students - April 1 and 8: Anne Becker, Takoma Park Poet Laureate, will offer a free poetry workshop for high school students - beginners and experienced writers alike - beginning Tuesday, March 18. Various elements of poetry will be introduced in discussion and in reading model poems. Participants will write their own poems, read them to the group, and receive feedback to deepen and enlarge their own understanding of what they have written. The poems generated during the workshop will be gathered into an anthology and published by the Arts and Humanities Commission. To register, please call 301-891-7224. *(Housing and Community Development)*

5. Long Branch-Sligo Neighborhood Traffic Calming Testing (Ward 2): The third of three temporary traffic control patterns tests in the Long Branch-Sligo neighborhood will begin Friday, March 28. The new traffic pattern will be tested for a period of two weeks, concluding on Friday, April 11. For more details see <http://takomaparkmd.gov/hcd/transportation.html#test3>. The purpose of these tests is to assess different methods of reducing traffic volumes on neighborhood residential streets. *(Housing and Community Development)*

6. Free First time Homebuyer Seminar: Are you preparing to become a homeowner? If so, you will want to attend Takoma Park's First Time Home Buyer Seminar, which is being offered free of charge on Saturday, April 12, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center. Learn how to improve your credit score, obtain a mortgage, understand the terms of your loan, and what first time home buyer programs are available to purchasers in Montgomery County. The same program will be offered in Spanish on May 10. To register for the seminar, call 301-891-7222. *(Housing and Community Development)*

7. The Learning Camp: Twelve youths, between the ages of 13 – 18, participated in the Spring Break Community Service Learning Camp that was held on March 24 - 28. Each day, youth participated in projects that both broke down boundaries and expanded departmental partnerships to help the community. The camp assisted with food preparation at D.C. Central Kitchen and painted water fountains and railings surrounding the Tidal Basin with the National Park Service in preparation for the Cherry Blossom Festival. The children prepared and delivered meals with Food and Friends. A pre- and post-test was given to the participants to help measure their knowledge of community service and what the needs are in their community. We had a great week and topped it off with a trip to Kings Dominion. Get Out & Play! *(Recreation)*

8. Spring Break Camp: The Takoma Park Recreation Department held its annual Spring Break Camp on March 24 - 28. Activities included a recycled art project to make a book out of a cereal box with Ms. Karen Brown and visits to Rollingcrest Pool and the Ringling Brothers Circus. Our other special guest, The Department of Natural Resources, brought their "Good, Bad and the Ugly" program for the kids to see and learn about animals and bugs that help or harm us. The camp was filled to capacity with 40 participants. *(Recreation)*

9. The Chief in Meetings:

- On March 24 and 25, Chief Ricucci conducted individual interviews with communication, crossing guard, and administrative employees as part of a one year follow-up with each employee.
- On March 26, Chief Ricucci filmed an interview on speed cameras for the City cable station's "Chief Speaks Out" segment.
- Also, on the 26th, Crime Analyst Kyleen Luy filmed an interview for the City cable station on crime analysis and her role as Crime Analyst.
- On March 26 - 27, Chief Ricucci attended a National Conference in Washington, D.C. involving the Police Executive Forum on Violent Crime/Hotspots. *(Police)*

10. Traffic Enforcement: Officers conducted at least 118 traffic stops, which resulted in some citations, two arrests and one vehicle impound. *(Police)*